

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

June 23, 2023



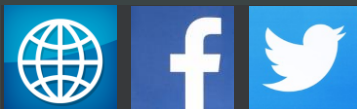
Contact Us

Monroe County District
Attorney's Office

47 S. Fitzhugh Street

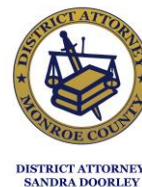
Rochester, NY 14614

(585) 753-4780



Monroe County District Attorney's Office

Weekly Newsletter



Welcome to the weekly newsletter from Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley.

Message from Sandra Doorley

Summer Anti-Violence Efforts

Even with our shooting numbers trending downwards compared to last year, the City of Rochester has witnessed an unfathomable amount of tragedy due to gun violence over the past years. During this time, I have worked closely with all of my law enforcement partners to address this violence from all angles. From a law enforcement perspective, this means using every tool in our tool box and working together to hold the worst offenders promoting the most violence accountable.

Wednesday was the official first day of summer. People want to be outside. They want to enjoy their neighborhoods and watch their children play. They deserve to be outside and feel safe. U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York, Trini Ross, was in Rochester with our law enforcement partners to share a few of our many efforts to curb the increase in violence we often see in summer months. Last summer, people did not feel safe. We are here to change that.



In conjunction with the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Rochester Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the U.S. Marshals Services, the New York State Police, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, we have worked to target, investigate, and quickly screen cases to determine if they should be prosecuted by the Monroe County District Attorney's Office or the U.S. Attorney's Office. Each case is unique, and often times due to New York State Law, our federal partners can better hold these violent offenders prior to trial, ensuring that they cannot commit violent crimes while awaiting court proceedings.

Homicide Update

So far in 2023:

City of Rochester Total:
22

Monroe County Total: 26

In 2022, the Monroe County District Attorney's Office took in a record number of gun possession cases. There were 670 arrests made that came into our office for these gun possessions. These do not include gun charges attached to homicides, but only straight possession cases. It is important to remember that today's illegal gun possession can be tomorrow's shooting victim.

Locally, through GIVE (Gun Involved Violence Elimination), we partner with the Rochester Police Department and the Monroe County Crime Analysis Center to provide special attention to the non-fatal shootings in the City of Rochester. Members of this non-fatal shooting taskforce, which is comprised of experienced attorneys and investigators, go to scenes, work with victims, and become experts in these difficult cases. We are fortunate to have an excellent team that will be expanding in the coming weeks.

I am confident that our partnerships and initiatives will continue to aid in reducing gun violence this summer. Our community deserves to feel safe.

Sandra

Highlights from the MCDA's Office

The trial of People v. **Timothy Brown** will continue into next week. Timothy Brown is charged with two counts of Murder in the 1st Degree, two counts of Murder in the 2nd Degree, and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the homicides of Tywan Harper and Malakai Smith. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Robertson, Deputy Chief of the Special Victim Unit.

The trial of People v. **Ronald Lagasse** will continue into next week in front of Monroe County Court Judge Dollinger. Ronald Lagasse is charged with Murder in the 2nd Degree in relation to the homicide of Mary Simzer. This case is being prosecuted by Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley and Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler, of the Major Felony Bureau.

The trial of People v. **Trevor Smith** will continue into next week in front of Monroe County Court Judge Vacca. Trevor Smith is charged with Murder in the 2nd Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the homicide of Jeremy Hamilton, Jr. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Christopher Bokelman, Chief of the Public Integrity & Economic Crimes Bureau.

30-year-old **Patrel Babers** was convicted by a Monroe County jury of two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree. On June 23, 2022, New York State Police Troopers located illegal narcotics and weapon in the possession of the defendant. Patrel Babers will be sentenced on July 19, 2023, in front of Monroe County Court Judge Dollinger. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Hogestyn, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

31-year-old **Christopher Carlos Williams, Jr.** pled guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st Degree for causing the shooting death of Marcus Bennett on July 16, 2022. This case was investigated by the Rochester Police Department. Christopher Williams was on parole and cut-off his ankle bracelet at the time of the homicide. The defendant will be sentenced to 23 years in the New York State Department of Corrections on July 26, 2023, in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Renzi. This case was prosecuted by First Assistant District Attorney Perry Duckles and Assistant District Attorney Michelle Crowley, Chief of the Grand Jury/Attorney Training Bureau.

36-year-old **James Claba Turner** pled guilty to Attempted Assault in the 2nd Degree for the attempted assault of a Rochester Police Officer on August 11, 2022. The defendant will be sentenced on July 31, 2023, in front of Monroe County Court Judge Miller. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Schiano, of the Youth Part/Major Felony Bureau.

Ericha Brown was sentenced by New York State Supreme Court Justice Renzi to 12 years in the New York State Department of Correction plus 15 years of Post Release Supervision. She previously pled guilty to Attempted Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child in the 1st Degree. Ericha Brown sexually abused children under the age of 13 on or about and between 2015 –2021. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Ralph Alloco, of the Special Victims Unit.

Jorge Andres Santana Torres was indicted on Murder in the 2nd Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the homicide of Alexis Mercedes on November 19, 2022. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Jirik, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Joshua Rodriguez was indicted on Murder in the 2nd Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the homicide of Roje Lowry on May 26, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Buckley, Chief of the Local Courts Bureau.

Dominic Johnson was indicted on Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree, Assault in the 1st Degree, and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the attempted murder of an individual on May 23, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Merrick Sadler, of the Non-Fatal Shooting Taskforce.

Crystal Shelton was indicted on Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree and Attempted Assault in the 1st Degree in relation to the stabbing of an individual on April 28, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Anthony Freeman, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Donald Harzynski was indicted on Grand Larceny in the 3rd Degree and Identity Theft in the 1st Degree in relation to a theft of property valued over \$3,000 between November 14, 2022 and November 16, 2022. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Christopher Bokelman, Chief of the Public Integrity & Economic Crimes Bureau.

Justin Harris and **Ronnie Oliver** were indicted on two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree, and two counts of Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the 2nd Degree. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Bridget Morgan, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Dezmond Harris was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree. On the same indictment, **Anthony Williams** was indicted on two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 4th Degree, and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 5th Degree. These charges are in relation to the illegal possession of narcotics and a weapon on April 7, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Hogestyn, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Julie Shepard was indicted on Grand Larceny in the 2nd Degree and three counts of Falsifying Business Records in the 1st Degree in relation to events occurring January 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Karina Pinch and Assistant District Attorney Ryan Lamon, both of the Public Integrity & Economic Crimes Bureau.

Jamal Birden was indicted on four counts of Burglary in the 2nd Degree in relation to a series of burglaries in the City of Rochester during the months of December 2022 and January 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Burak Serbetci, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Mahlaysia Johnson was indicted on two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and Assault in the 2nd Degree in relation to an illegal firearm possession and Assault of an individual on May 22, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Burak Serbetci, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Amir Whitehead was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree, and two counts of Driving While Intoxicated in relation to a reckless driving investigation and an illegal firearm possession on May 25, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Hyatt, Deputy Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Shawn Davis and **Shay Pearson** were indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to an illegal Weapon Possession on April 2, 2022. Shawn Davis was also indicted on Driving While Intoxicated in relation to the same incident. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Timothy Boucher, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Anthony Giles was indicted on Robbery in the 2nd Degree in relation to the forcible stealing of property from an individual on May 25, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Emily Chisholm, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Emanuel Colon and **Josue Flores** were indicted on Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 5th Degree in relation to the illegal possession of narcotics on April 24, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Hyatt, Deputy Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Stevens Marrero was indicted on Strangulation in the 2nd Degree and Attempted Assault in the 2nd Degree in relation to an incident occurring on December 16, 2022. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Anthony Freeman, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Rodney Jasper was indicted on two counts of Robbery in the 1st Degree, two counts of Assault in the 1st Degree, and three counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to an armed robbery and shooting on April 27, 2023 and the illegal possession of a firearm on May 17, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Adam VanHeyst, of the Non-Fatal Shooting Taskforce.

Eric Trone and **Herley Williams** were indicted on two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree and two counts of Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the 2nd Degree in relation to events occurring on March 14, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Kennedy, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Willis Knight was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree in relation to an illegal weapon possession on May 24, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Tony DiPerna, of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Jonathan Lehr was indicted on Burglary in the 2nd Degree, two counts of Criminal Contempt in the 1st Degree, Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree and Petit Larceny. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aaron Rath, of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

Jonathan Alvarez was indicted on four counts of Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs and Driving While Ability Impaired by the Combined Influence of Drugs or of Alcohol and any Drug or Drugs related to an incident on January 22, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Janna Koch, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

Jose Acevedo was indicted on Assault in the 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to events occurring on June 7, 2023, and June 9, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aliyah Fowler, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Julie Bried was indicted on Arson in the 2nd Degree in relation to the arson of a building in the City of Rochester on January 3, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Camille Ingino, of the Major Felony Bureau.

Lester Lampley, Jr. was indicted on two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to an illegal possession of a firearm in a domestic related incident on May 31, 2023. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Francisco, of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

Michele Torres was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 2nd Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, and four counts of Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the 2nd Degree. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Kennedy, of the Special Investigations Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Jirik, also of the Special Investigations Bureau.

MCDA in the News

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/crime/2023/06/22/murder-of-rpd-officer-reveals-feud-between-gangs-in-rochester>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/new-initiative-will-help-rpd-focus-on-non-deadly-shootings/>

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdny/pr/us-attorney-discusses-anti-gun-violence-efforts-announces-indictment-defendant>

<https://www.whec.com/top-news/u-s-attorney-bloods-in-rochester-last-summer-gang-war-led-to-murder-of-officer-mazurkiewicz/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/monroe-county-crime-lab-recognized-for-generating-more-than-4000-leads#>

https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/jury-selection-to-begin-in-pair-of-rochester-murder-trials/?utm_source=t.co&utm_campaign=socialflow&utm_medium=referral